In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A ~~compound~~ **peptide** which binds to a DM2 protein, which ~~compound~~ **peptide** comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least **the** eight consecutive amino acids **from F to R_4** of the formula

R_1-X-F-X-R_2-R_3-W-X-X-R_4 (I) (SEQ ID NO: 4)

wherein

R_1 is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),
X stands for any natural amino acid,
R_2 is arginine (R), histidine (H), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S), or aspartic acid (D),
R_3 is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),
R_4 is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and
F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,
and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27 wherein the ~~compound~~ **peptide** binds to human DM2 (HDM2).

29. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27, ~~further comprising~~ **which is coupled to** a biotin moiety ~~coupled to the amino acid motif~~.

30. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27, **which is** ~~wherein the amino acid motif comprises~~ a cyclic peptide.

31. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27, ~~wherein the amino acid motif comprises~~ **which is** a cyclic lactam.

32. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27 ~~wherein the amino acid motif~~ **which** comprises a disulfide bond.

33. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27 which comprises no more than fifteen amino acids (15 mers).

34. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27 which comprises an amino acid motif selected from the group consisting of M-P-R-F-M-D-Y-W-E-G-L-N (SEQ ID NO: 6), Q-P-T-F-S-D-Y-W-K-L-L-P (SEQ ID NO: 7), and P-X-F-X-D-Y-W-X-X-L (SEQ ID NO: 8).

35. (Currently amended) ~~The compound according to claim 27,~~ **A peptide** which comprises eight amino acids according to the formula

F-X2-R2-R3-W-X3-X4-R4 (Ib) (SEQ ID NO: 10)

wherein R2 is arginine (R), histidine (H), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S), or aspartic acid (D);

R3 is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F), or tyrosine (Y);

R4 is phenylalanine (F), ~~gutamine~~ **glutamine** (Q) or leucine (L);

X2 is methionine (M), isoleucine (I), threonine (T), arginine (R), alanine (A) or serine (S);

X3 is glutamic acid (E), threonine (T), alanine (A), phenylalanine (F) or serine (S); and

X4 is glycine (G), glutamine (Q), threonine (T), alanine (A) or aspartic acid (D).

36. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim ~~27~~ **35** comprising an amino acid motif of the formula

X1-F-X2-R2-R3-W-X3-X4-R4 (Ic) (SEQ ID NO: 11)

wherein

R2 is arginine (R), histidine (H), glutamic acid (E), ~~cystine~~ **cysteine** (C), serine (S), or aspartic acid (D);

R3 is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y);

R4 is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L);

X1 is arginine (R), asparagine (N), alanine (A), threonine (T), or valine (V);

X2 is methionine (M), isoleucine (I), threonine (T), arginine (R), alanine (A), or serine (S);

X3 is glutamic acid (E), threonine (T), alanine (A), phenylalanine (F), or serine (S); and

X4 is glycine (G), glutamine (Q), threonine (T), alanine (A), or aspartic acid (D).

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 27, wherein R2 is aspartic acid (D).

39. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 35, wherein at least one of R2, X2, X3, and X4 is defined as follows: R2 is aspartic acid (D), X2 is methionine (M), X3 is glutamic acid (E), and X4 is glycine (G).

40. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ **peptide** according to claim 36, wherein at least one of R2, X1, X2, X3, and X4 is defined as follows: R2 is aspartic acid (D), X1 is arginine (R), X2 is methionine (M), X3 is glutamic acid (E), and X4 is glycine (G).

41. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the binding of a DM2 protein to a p53 protein comprising contacting said DM2 protein with a ~~compound~~ **peptide** which ~~compound~~ **peptide** comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least eight consecutive amino acids of the formula

R_1-X-F-X-R_2-R_3-W-X-X-R_4 (I) (SEQ ID NO: 4)

wherein

R_1 is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),

X stands for any natural amino acid,

R_2 is arginine (R), histidine (H), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S), or aspartic acid (D),

R_3 is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),

R_4 is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and

F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,

and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein R2 is aspartic acid (D).

43-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a ~~compound~~ **peptide**, which ~~compound~~ **peptide** comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least eight consecutive amino acids of the formula

R_1-X-F-X-R_2-R_3-W-X-X-R_4 (I) (SEQ ID NO: 4)

wherein

R_1 is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),
X stands for any natural amino acid,
R_2 is arginine (R), histidine (H), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S), or aspartic acid (D),
R_3 is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),
R_4 is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and
F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,

and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein, in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.